

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3434
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

S E C R E T CARACAS 7700

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PCAT, MX, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN AND MEXICAN CAT INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 208037

1. CHARGE MET WITH FONMIN CONSALVI ON AUGUST 17
AND AFTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE RECEPTION
OF CLAPP AND JONES LAST WEEK AND RECONFIRMING OUR
DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH GOV ON AYACUCHO, MADE A
PRESENTATION TO HIM OF POINTS CONTAINED IN PARA 2 OF
REFTEL.

2. IN REPLY, CONSALVI MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A). VENEZUELA'S INTEREST IN PROMOTING A REGIONAL
LA EFFORT TOWARD ARMS RESTRAINT IS DEEP AND
ABIDING. IT THEREFORE HAS NO WISH TO CLAIM EXCLUSIVE
CREDIT NOR TO COMPETE WITH MEXICO OR
EANYONE ELSE. COOPERATION IS THE GOAL.

B). VENEZUELA SEES THREE IMPORTANT BENCHMARKS
IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE PROCESS: THE AUGUST 21

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MEETING IN MEXICO; THE DEC 7 AYACUCHO MEETING IN
CARACAS; THE 1979 MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS.
(HE SAID IF OTHER AYACUCHO SIGNATORIES AGREE,
GOV INTENDS TO INVITE MEXICO TO PARTICIPATE IN
IN DECEMBER MEETING). THIS THREE -STEP PROCESS WILL HOPEFULLY
CULMINATE IN AGREEMENT THAT ALL CAN ACCEPT.

C). WITH REGARD TO PREPARATORY MEETING OF AYACUCHO COUNTRIES PRIOR TO DECEMBER MEETING (IN CASE MEXICO OR OTHER NONAYACUCHO NATIONS ARE INVITED), CONSALVI CONSIDERED IT A GOOD IDEA IN PRINCIPLE. HE APPRECIATED OUR OFFER TO SUPPLY A REWORKED CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK PAPER OR SUPPORTING TECHNICAL MATERIAL.

D). BEFORE MAKING ANY MORE PRECISE PLANS, WE SHOULD AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE MEXICO MEETING AND THEN RE-ASSESS THE SITUATION. THE GOV WILL LOOK FORWARD TO A REVIEW WITH US ONCE MEXICO MEETING DUST HAS SETTLED.

E). NAVA CARRILLO, BECAUSE OF PRIOR COMMITMENTS, CANNOT GO EARLY TO MEXICO, BUT WILL ARRIVE THERE OVER THIS WEEK-END AND WILL TRY TO REACH GONZALEZ GALAVEZ PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING. CHARGE ASKED IF SOME OTHER GOV REP WAS ATTENDING AND, IF SO, IF THAT PERSON COULD ARRIVE EARLIER. CONSALVI SAID SOMEONE WOULD GO ALONG TO ASSIST NAVA CARRILLO, AND HE WOULD TRY TO HAVE THAT PERSON GO EARLIER.

3. CONSALVI DID NOT DISPLAY SAME APPREHENSION ABOUT PARTICIPATION OF CUBA AS DID GOMEZ MANTELLINI, NOR DID HE PUT MUCH STOCK IN IDEA OF MEXICAN-SOVIET COLLUSION. IN THIS REGARD, CHARGE TOLD HIM WE HAVE NOT MENTIONED SOVIET PROPOSAL ON VENUE OF NEXT CAT MEETING TO MEXICANS AND SAID WE WOULD APPRECIATE VENEZUELA'S MAINTAINING THIS CONFIDENCE, TO WHICH CONSALVI AGREED.

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4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GOV CONTINUES TO APPRECIATE OUR INTEREST AND TO COUNT ON OUR DISCREET ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA. THEY WILL NOW AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE MEXICO MEETING (AND OF CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AYACUCHO SIGNATORIES) BEFORE FOCUSING IN DETAIL ON A PLAN FOR MOVING AHEAD. SINCE WE HAVE CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE A POSITIVE HELPFUL ATTITUDE AND HAVE PLANTED A NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS WITH THEM (WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL CONTINUE TO GERMINATE) THEY WILL MOST LIKELY LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW OUR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS FOLLOWING THE MEXICO MEETING.

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